

Horticulture

DOES NOT BRUISE THE FRUIT

Picker Invented That Will Save Apples Intended to Be Kept for Any Considerable Time.

Apples for packing or for keeping any length of time should be carefully picked from the trees so they will not be bruised. As the climbing of the trees made the picking a tedious job, I devised a picker, as shown in the



An Apple Picker.

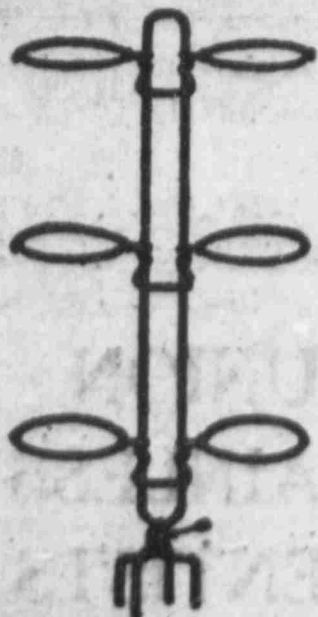
illustration, says a writer in the Popular Mechanics. I took a pine stick twelve feet two inches wide and seven-eighths of an inch thick, and hinged a two-foot length of the same material to its side so that the ends were even, and placed an old-fashioned half-round tin cup on each strip so that their openings would register. A row of holes were punched around the edge so that a soft pad could be sewed in each cup.

A stout cord was attached to the short piece and run through a hole in the long piece allowing end enough to equal the length of the long strip. A piece of heavy clockspring was placed between the strips to keep them apart.

USEFUL FOR PLANT SUPPORT

Can Be Used to Much Advantage With Flowers and Vegetables—Is Made of Galvanized Wire.

The accompanying picture shows a support for plants which can be used to good advantage, both for vegetables and flowers. It is a patented article, but the cost is not great. It is made of galvanized wire, which will not rust



Useful Plant Support.

and can be raised and lowered to suit the plant. When not in use it can be rolled and packed away for the next season. It is very useful for training tomatoes, carnations, roses or any plant that needs support.

Gait of the Horse.

A horse that moves steadily and fast with a long even stride is a good one. A horse that takes short nervous steps or has a mincing gait is always a trial.

JUST PICK PEARS

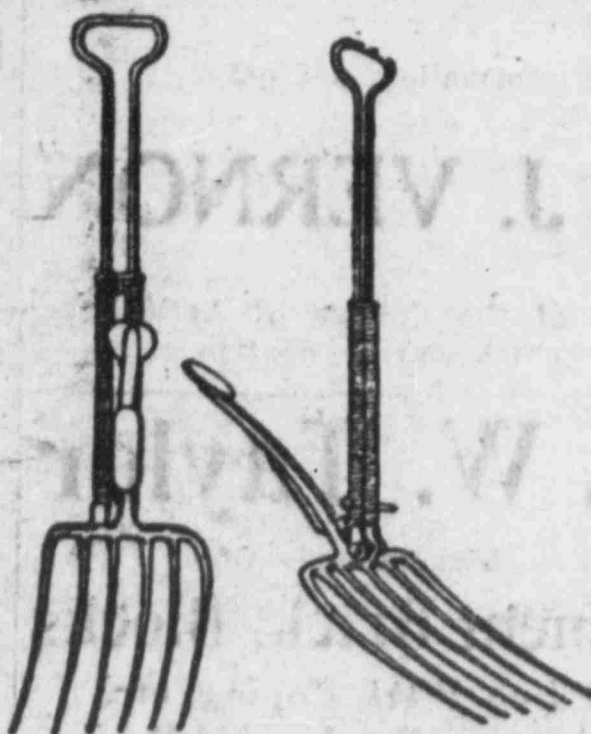
Should Always Be Done Before Fully Ripe, Without Bruising and With Stems On—Also Graded.

Pears should always be picked carefully before fully ripe, without bruising, with the stems on. They should be laid carefully in the picking-baskets, which should hold half a bushel or so, and then be hauled to the packing-house or other convenient place and at once sorted into grades, and either packed or shipped or placed in the ripening house for future shipment. It is usually better, in most cases, especially with summer fruit, to pick the trees over two or three times, although this is not absolutely necessary, and unless the trees are overloaded may not be worth while. When the fruit has not been properly thinned and the trees are overloaded many growers begin to pick the fruit long before it is full grown and send it to market. By this means the trees are not only relieved somewhat, but the fruit that is left swells to the largest possible bulk; moreover, satisfactory returns are often secured from the early pickings. This method is particularly successful with Clapp's Favorite and Bartlett. Both of these varieties will ripen up tolerably well when they are not much more than half grown. The same principle is successfully used in handling LeConte and Kieffer pears, but these should be nearer maturity to be good.

COMBINATION RAKE AND HOE

Implement Will Be Found Very Handy in Cutting Channels in Which to Set Small Plants.

The implement shown in the illustration is a garden weeder combining a rake with a triangularly shaped hoe. The parts of the head of the rake can be separated for the insertion of new teeth when the old are bent or broken.



Rake and Hoe Weeder.

the teeth consisting of twenty-penny steel nails. The triangular hoe is used for cutting channels in which to sow seed or set small plants.

Scalding Peach Borers.

A reader who wants information concerning the possibilities of hot water in fighting the peach tree borers will be interested in the following:

"The hot water cure is recommended by many for peach tree borers. It is a somewhat drastic treatment for the borer, though it does not hurt the tree. The borers work either at or directly beneath the surface of the ground, around the trunk. The tree may be killed up in the form of a saucer, the dirt packed a little and the scalding water poured in. This will invariably bring out any borers. It is not believed to hurt the tree, although an excess of water should not be used. An emulsion of 1 part of naphtholium to 150 parts of water is also recommended."

Just Study Principles.

Everyone who attempts to decorate the home grounds should study the principles of plant arrangement with reference to harmony and general beauty, then plan and plant for himself.

FARM AND BEES

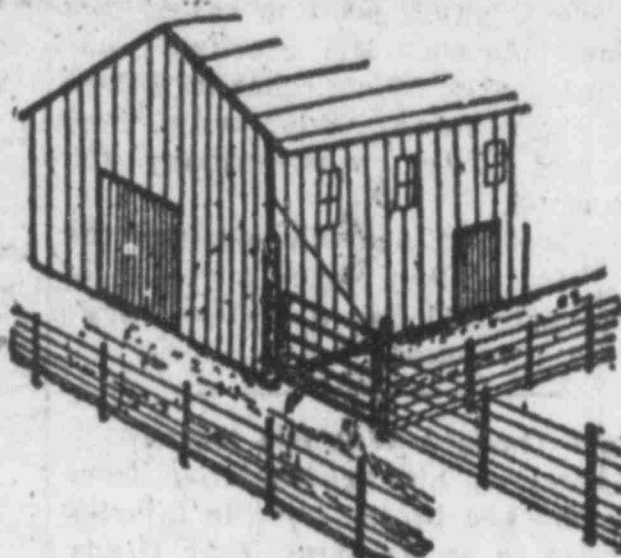
GATE IS QUITE CONVENIENT

Nonsagging Affair Found Advantageous When Driving Hogs From One Pasture to Another.

In hanging our farm gates and building fences we should look ahead for advantages and disadvantages that may come up later on.

This post that the gate hangs to is round, so that the bands of iron that serve as hinges may slip up and down as wanted, writes J. W. Griffin in Farm World. If we wish the gate raised a little to get the pigs under and keep the large hogs back, all we have to do is to raise the gate and put the pin in one of the holes just below the band.

Then, the wire that runs from the



Nonsagging Gate.

top of the gate to the barn is tightened, so that the weight of the gate at the end where the wire is fastened will hang upon the wire. The gate will answer for either of the lanes. We find this arrangement of lanes very convenient when turning stock from one pasture to another.

When the wire support is used to keep the gate from sagging, one may use a very long gate—one as long as 18 or 20 feet.

PROPER TIME TO CUT GRASS

Haste Makes Waste When Crop Is Hurried to Barn Not Fully Cured—Thorough Drying Needed.

(By WALTER LEUTZ.)

As to the best time for cutting grass, it does not pay to be in too big a hurry. When the grass is young and tender and seemingly succulent in the fresh state, it is harder to cure, dries and shrinks more, and has not nearly the food value of the more mature crop.

While the opposite extreme should be avoided, cutting before the seed is so ripe as to scatter, there is much more nourishment in the matured stalk, and one farmer who was complimented for bringing his cattle through the winter on a minimum amount of grain and yet keeping them in good flesh, attributes his success largely to this fact.

Haste makes waste when the crop is hurried to the barn not fully cured. Hay cut green requires more thorough drying than that almost overripe.

Farm Clubs.

Clubs for farm boys and girls to stimulate interest in improved methods of agriculture and better living conditions on the farm now have a total membership of 144,000 in the United States.

Turnip Growing.

Secrets of successful turnip growing: Have the seedbed very fine, then roll it; sow the seed after a rain and cover the seed by tightly rolling the ground.

BEE MOTH INSIDIOUS ENEMY

Weak and Queenless Hives Suffer Most From Its Attacks—Keep All Colonies Strong.

(By F. G. HERMAN.)

It is not to be wondered that our forefathers were afraid of the moths for their bees. Until the invention of the movable frame hive it was next to impossible to ascertain the extent of the danger to the bee industry on the moth's account.

The common belief among beginners is that an army of wax worms will attack a colony of bees and kill them. The truth of the matter is that the mischief begins with the little innocent looking moth miller which filters about among the hives, and enters those which are weak in bees, and there finds lots of vacant cells in which to deposit her eggs.

In due time the tiny wax worms hatch from those eggs and begin to feed on the comb, at the same time filling them full of webs. The trouble is more serious in the southern states than it is further north.

The remedy for this is to keep all colonies strong in bees. Do not give them more combs than they can occupy.

If combs have been out during winter so as to be frozen, they are safe until the weather becomes warm enough for fresh eggs to be laid in them. A good tight, cool cellar is about the best place to store them until swarming time.

There is too much neglect of this kind among the aparies. We do not sufficiently recollect that the moth becomes more numerous as the season advances.

SAVE USEFUL LITTLE BIRDS

Many Species of Feathered Creatures Destroy Thousands of Injurious Insect Pests.

(By F. L. WASHBURN.)

Almost without exception the birds seen in the garden are, in the long run, very useful in eating injurious insects. The robin is omnivorous, the



The Common Thrush.

cuckoo eats hairy caterpillars, the meadow lark consumes many insects which would prey upon grass land, and the thrush, chipping sparrow, scarlet tanager, rose-breasted grosbeak, house wren, cat bird, chickadee and other feathered creatures destroy thousands of injurious insect pests when raising their young birds. It, therefore, behooves every boy and every girl, every school teacher, and every citizen to do all they can by precept and example to conserve the birds, and give them all possible protection.

Feeding Hogs.

The bluegrass in connection with the alfalfa will be quite a help, but it will be a matter to be tried and to learn how much the hogs will neglect the alfalfa for it. When there comes a dry spell it is a failure, while the alfalfa grows on.

For at least one-half the pasturing and feeding period the hogs should have about one-half full feed of corn. The remainder of the time what they will eat clean at each feeding time. Experiments show that this is the most profitable way to feed swine while on pasture.

Shetland Ponies.

Shetland ponies are attracting unusual attention. At a recent sale in Scotland 80 head sold for an average of \$115. Over one-fourth of the offering came to the United States.